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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



PATENT

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington DC 20231 on October 6, 2001 by Steven C. Robertson.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of	Group Art Unit:	2165
Steven C. Robertson		
Serial No.: 09/324,601	Examiner:	Azpuru, Carlos
Filed on: 06/02/99		
Title: System and Method for Providing Electronic Multi-Merchant Gift Certificate & Contribution Brokering Services Over a Distributed Network		

Technology Center 2100

OCT 17 2001

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicant responds to the Office action dated 6/27/01 to which a response was originally due 9/27/01. Applicant did not receive a complete copy of one of the references cited by the Examiner therefore the Examiner reset the time for response to the Office action on 7/17/01. Accordingly, a response to the Office action is now due 10/17/01. No extension of time is required for consideration of this response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Berebitysky et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Berebitysky et al.

Berebitysky et al was published 8/98, less than the 1 year from the filing date of this application. Therefore, Berebtysy et al. is not properly applied against this application under §102(b). Therefore applicant requests the examiner withdraw this rejection of claims 1-22 under § 102(b) in view of Berebitysky et al.